

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 12, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Pettit provided information about donating funds for a charity drive to help supply needy families in Merrillville and Crown with holiday dinners. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve a donation of \$250. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. Mr. Pettit provided the detailed information related to the program. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion took place among the Town Council members regarding setting a date and time for professional pictures to be taken. A decision was made for January 23rd at 5:30pm.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated December 12, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2017. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit commented that information was received regarding the due date for payment to be made to Meijer. Mr. Spires provided an update and said the payment will be due June 2018. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pettit Thanked Chief Petruch and his department for returning excess funds back to the General Fund. The excess fund will be applied toward the 2018 Health Insurance Premium.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk made mention to the upcoming winter weather conditions. As a reminder, President Hardaway said there is no street parking when 2 inches of snow or more, otherwise vehicles will be towed.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca thanked all parties involved with the planning and participation of the Holiday Parade. President Hardaway commented that it was a great parade and lighting ceremony. A discussion took place related to next year's Concert in the Park event.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron provided updates on bids that have been approved. A bid for Independent Street Project is expected to be out in January. Mrs. Barron said drainage pipes will be installed on Old Lincoln Highway. The South Shore poster "Clean and Clear" program had their unveiling which was held on December 7th. Discussion followed.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann observed painted circles on trees near power lines. Upon further discussion we learned that Nipsco has been coming out and cutting trees down as well as changing light posts.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-32: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 17-23 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2018. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Discussion followed regarding that changes that were made to the ordinance. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-30: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana amending the municipal code to adopt by reference the 2014 Indiana Fire Code for enforcement by the Merrillville Fire Department and Merrillville Town Court. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-31: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, amending the municipal code to assess liens on real property and prohibit renewal of town business licenses for delinquent business false alarm fines. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 17-37: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within certain categories. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-38: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the repayment of temporary loans. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-39: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing a temporary loan to accommodate a shortfall. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-40: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the Noxious Weeds fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-41: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the Fire & Hazmat fund. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit inquired about letters that were sent out for the upcoming appointments of Plan Commission, Police Commission, and Stormwater. President Hardaway commented that there were two responses. Mr. Spires provided further updates regarding this matter.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan Commission meeting, December 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, December 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services)
December 22nd & 25th, 2017 in observance of Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Town Council meeting, December 26, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

President Hardaway and the Town Council wished everyone a very Merry Christmas!

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer